

The Rufford Foundation
Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Alex Asase
Project title	Ecology and conservation of threatened cycad species (<i>Encephalartos barteri</i>) in Ghana
RSG reference	13487-2
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	alexasase@gmail.com
Date of this report	2 nd May 2016

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project’s original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Up-date and improved knowledge on the status of the <i>Encepharlatos barteri</i> in Ghana			Yes	Through fieldwork, and consultations with local communities and relevant authorities as well as experts, we have acquired more insights about the current status of the species in Ghana.
Adequate knowledge about the major threats to the surviving populations of species;			Yes	The major threat to plants was identified as wild fires. Other activities that pose significant threats to the species were fuel wood collection and cattle movements.
Data available for making management recommendations for the protection of species			Yes	Data were collected on population dynamics (density, growth rate and phenology) as well as threat to the species. This information is available for use in making management recommendations of the species.
Increased awareness of the conservation importance of the species among local communities and relevant authorities.		Yes		There has been increased awareness of the conservation importance of the species among project communities and relevant authorities through engagement and related workshop activities. However, continues community sensitisation is important.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant)

The project uptake delayed due to some challenges with arrangement of logistics and acquisition of project equipment.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The first major outcome of the project is about improved and up-to-date knowledge on the current distribution and population status of the species. The distribution, population status as well as threats to plant around the Akosombo area, where the largest population of the plant is found in Ghana is now well known.

The second major outcome of the project is awareness among communities and stakeholders about the conservation importance of the species. Stakeholders including community local leaders,

authorities and forestry staff have now become more aware about the conservation importance of the species and hopefully will continue to protect the species to ensure that the plant does not become extinct in the communities.

Lastly, there is availability of data on current population status of the species including population dynamics and threats to the survival of the plant. This data is available to be used in making management plans for the conservation of the species.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Local people were involved in many different aspects of the project. They served as field guide during field and were trained in ecological sampling field techniques as well as the use of some field equipment. They were also helpful in the education of local communities about the conservation importance of the plant. Finally, they assisted with identification of populations of the plants within their communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We have developed a long-term relationship with the local people who will continue to monitor the species in their communities. We intend to look for funding to explore other aspects of the study such as distribution of the species under future climate change scenarios, and effects of bush fires on population dynamics of the species.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We have started with analysing the data accumulated in order to develop manuscripts for scientific publications. We also intend to present the findings of the study in conferences such as that of the Society of Conservation (African Chapter).

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The grant was used over a period of two years as compared to the anticipated 1 year length. This situation was due the late start of project activities.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount (£)	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Garmin GPSMap GPS	369	400	31	
Camera and memory cards	556	600	44	
Ben Meadow Diameter Tape	75	75.41	0.41	
Silva Range Tm compass	35	62.6	27.6	
Aluminium Weather proof Tags	65	112.1	47.1	
Laptop	500	544	54	

4 x 4 vehicle rental	1200	2000	800	Received some support from my institution
Cost of fuel for vehicle	600	800	200	Received some support from my institution
DSA for project staff	1152	1500	348	Received some support from my institution
Cost of hiring venue for workshop	150	100	50	
T & T for workshop participants	300	250	50	
Lunch and coffee break for workshop	300	200	100	
Cost of production of workshop materials	150	100	50	
Cost of posters	300	250	50	
Cost of freight for equipment	250	105.6	144.4	
Total	6000	6998.72	998.72	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

The next important steps will be to develop scientific publications from the current study while continuing the monitoring and protection of the existing populations of the species. Also, a trip to the Afram arm of the Volta Lake to assess populations there should be a matter of priority.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes. The logo was used in the materials used for awareness creation among the project stakeholders.

11. Any other comments?

Through this project we have been able to establish six permanent plots around the Akosombo gorge area for further studies on the species. The project also involved two graduate technicians from the Department of Botany at the University of Ghana who received field training in ecological techniques and use of field equipment such as clinometer, compass and GPS.

We are most grateful for the support received from Rufford Foundation for this project.

